

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a skin disease or disorder having an etiology related to angiogenesis, the method comprising the step of applying to the skin of a patient in need of
5 such treatment a topical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a shark cartilage extract comprising one or more biologically active components, a majority of which have a molecular weight less than about 500 kDa.
2. A matrix metalloprotease inhibitor isolated from shark cartilage, which has an apparent
10 molecular weight of about 31 KDa and which cross-reacts with anti-TIMP antibodies.
3. The matrix metalloprotease inhibitor of claim 2 which is effective against MMP-2, MMP-9 and MMP-12 metalloproteases.